

Public Engagement in a Global Pandemic

Tuesday 18 May 2021 10:00 (30 minutes)

UKRI/STFC's Scientific Computing Department (SCD) has a long and rich history of delivering face to face public engagement and outreach, both on site and in public places, as part of the wider STFC programme. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, SCD was forced to abandon an extensive planned programme of public engagement, alongside altering the day-to-day working methods of the majority of its staff. SCD had to respond rapidly to create a new, remote only, programme for the summer and for the foreseeable future. This was initially an exercise in improvisation, identifying existing activities that could be delivered remotely with minimal changes. As the pandemic went on, SCD also created new resources specifically for a remote audience and adapted existing activities where appropriate, using our evaluation framework to ensure these activities continued to meet the aims of the in-person programme. This paper presents the process through which this was achieved, some of the benefits and challenges of remote engagement and the plans for 2021 and beyond.

Primary authors: Mr CORBETT, Greg (STFC); COLLIER, Ian (Science and Technology Facilities Council STFC (GB)); PALMER, Sophy (University of Durham); Mr DACK, Tom (Science and Technology Facilities Council STFC (GB)); LIU, XinRan (University of Edinburgh)

Presenter: Mr CORBETT, Greg (STFC)

Session Classification: Tues AM Plenaries

Track Classification: Collaboration, Education, Training and Outreach